



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

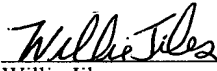
In re Application of: Pedro S. de Souza et al.
Serial No.: 09/844,847
Filing Date: April 27, 2001
Examiner: Baoquoc N. To
Art Unit: 2172
Title: *Optimization Using A Multi-Dimensional Data Model*

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Commissioner For Patents
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Dear Sir:

<p align="center">CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL</p> <p>I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.</p> <p> Willie Jiles</p> <p>Date: April 14, 2004 Exp. Mail Receipt No. EV 324621055 US</p>

Response pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

In response to the Office Action mailed January 20, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the following remarks.